



W. L. "Trey" Folse, III
Superintendent

Pete Jabbia
Associate Superintendent

Michael Cossé
Assistant Superintendent

Amiee C. Lemane
Assistant Superintendent

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2	Elizabeth B. Heintz, President
6	Michael C. Nation, Vice President
1	Matthew E. Greene
3	Michael J. Dirmann
4	Stephen J. "Jack" Loup, III
5	C. Brandon Harrell
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10	Ronald "Ron" Bettencourt
11	Tammy W. Lamy
12	Richard "Rickey" Hursey, Jr.
13	James Braud
14	Dennis S. Cousin
15	Lisa M. Page

Dr. Shelta J. Richardson
School Board Member-District 7
St. Tammany Parish Public School System
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April 12, 2021

Mr. Greg Thibodeaux
Louisiana Board of Ethics
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Mr. Thibodeaux:

I serve as a School Board member for St. Tammany Parish School Board in District 7. I was advised to reach out to you regarding a question I have about my individual responsibilities as an elected official serving in the role of a school board member.

Here is my situation. Back in September of 2020, I made a formal request of the Superintendent of the St. Tammany Parish School Board ("STPSB") for records providing verification that criminal background checks at hiring of all employees of the St. Tammany Parish Public School System were being done. I specifically requested the dates of hire and the date(s) of the completed criminal background checks. Sadly, my request was simply ignored. The same request was made again in January of 2021 with our new Superintendent. As of this date, the Superintendent has formally rejected my request to produce these records.

The efforts I have taken to retrieve these records has been persistent. First the Superintendent chose to ignore my request....and then he said he needed legal counsel. Upon receiving legal counsel, I was told by him that I could not have access to this information or records, as the law prohibited my access to school employee personnel files. When I told him I never asked for personnel records, he then claimed that I needed full Board of Directors approval before these records could be released, as this request was expensive. During the March Committee as a Whole meeting, I did in fact approach the Board of Directors on the matter. While council told the Board of Directors that under state

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statute, I was allowed to have access to these records....the Board of Directors rejected the motion requiring the Superintendent to release these records to me. Regardless, I made one final request of the Superintendent requesting the records to no avail.

Ultimately, I want to know if I am committing malfeasance as an individual board member if I do not ensure that criminal background checks have been conducted with all St, Tammany Parish Public School System employees? Is it malfeasance for the Superintendent to refuse to provide these records to a publicly elected school board member making this request?

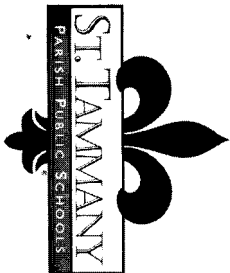
In closing, I want to thank you in advance for any guidance you can provide on these issues. Thank you for your time. I hope to hear from you soon and will much appreciate a response to this letter before our next Board meeting of May 6, 2021.

Respectfully,

Dr. Shelta J. Richardson-
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Shelta.Richardson@stpsb.org

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